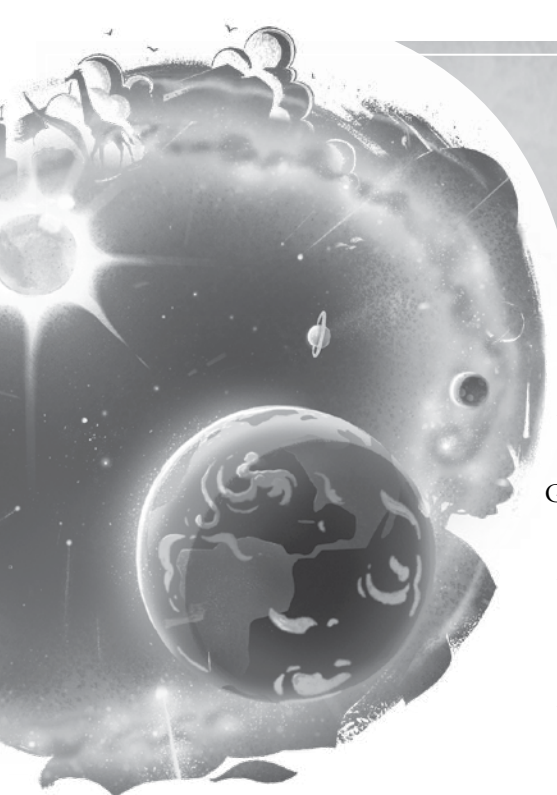


THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT
FOR KIDS

1st - 2nd Grade
September 2, 2018



Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 1

God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 1

STORY POINT:

God created everything, and everything
He created was good.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator
and King.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
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TEACH THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
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APPLY THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

In the beginning, God created everything. God created the universe *ex nihilo*, or “out of nothing.” All of creation began with a word. When God spoke, it happened: light, land, sky, stars, plants, and animals. God made them all, and they were good. Creation was perfect, just as God intended.

The first story—in fact, every story in the Bible—is a small piece of a much bigger story: God’s redemptive story. Sin would enter the world and affect everything, but God already knew. He already had a plan to show His grace to people through His Son (2 Tim. 1:9), to rescue and restore.

The Bible says that God’s plan existed before He created the world. (Eph. 1:4-6) The Bible tells the story of how a great God redeemed rebellious people by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice for sin.

The story of Jesus does not begin in a manger. The Son has always existed, and He was present at creation. He is the Word through whom all things were created. (John 1:1-3)

Colossians 1:16-17 says that everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. Through creation, we see and understand God’s eternal power and divine nature. (Rom. 1:20)

As you begin teaching kids about creation, help them discover who God is. Remind boys and girls that God created everything with a purpose: to bring Him glory. Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.”

The Book of Genesis is the beginning of the greatest story ever told. It is a true story, and at the center of it all is the true hero: our Savior, Jesus Christ. This story changes everything.

The BIBLE Story

God Created the World

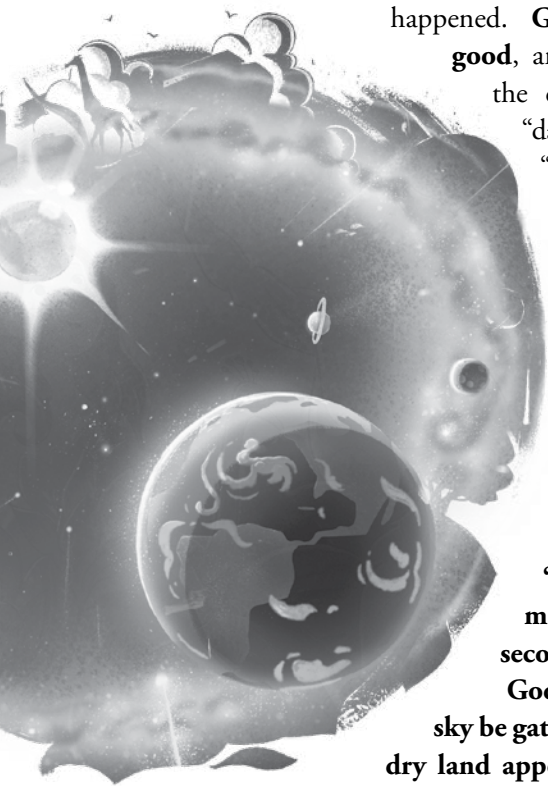
Genesis 1

In the beginning, nothing existed except for God. **God created the heavens and the earth.** The earth had no shape, and darkness covered the earth. The Spirit of God was there, hovering over the waters.

God spoke: “Let there be light!” What God said happened. **God saw that the light was good**, and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and He called the darkness “night.” **Evening came, and then morning came. That was the first day.**

God spoke again: “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate them.” What God said happened. He made a space between the water that was on the earth and the water above the earth. **God called the expanse “sky.” Evening came, and then morning came. That was the second day.**

God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.” What God said happened. God called the dry land “earth,” and He called the gathered water “seas.” God saw that it was good. Then God said, **“Let the earth make plants and trees with fruits and seeds.”** What God said happened. Plants and trees grew, and **God saw that it was good. Evening**



came, and then morning came. That was the third day.

Next, God placed lights in the sky. God created the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night. God gave us lights to shine on the earth, to separate day from night, and to help us track time in days and years. **God saw that it was good. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the fourth day.**

Next, God made creatures that move and swim in the water. He made birds to flap their wings and soar across the sky. **God saw that it was good.** God told the animals to multiply, and they filled the seas and the sky. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the fifth day.

Then God made more animals—livestock, creatures that crawl, and wildlife—**to live on the earth.** When God said it, it happened. **And God saw that all of it was good.**

Christ Connection: Jesus is Lord over all of creation. The Son has always existed. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. All of creation exists to bring God glory.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Vary your tone:**

Speak boldly when saying the words that God spoke. Use pauses for emphasis when identifying the days.

Speak cheerfully when describing the creation as “good.”

- **Use props:** Prepare posters with simple drawings for each day of creation. Show each poster at the appropriate point in the story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1

STORY POINT: God created everything, and everything He created was good.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them about their favorite animals. Why do they like the animals they chose? Ask them who made all the animals.

SAY • Those are some great choices for favorite animal. All kinds of fascinating creatures live in our world. Some creatures swim, some fly, and others crawl along the ground. Today we will learn that God made all the animals, as well as all the different places where the animals live.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Creature Factory” activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Creature Factory” activity page. Encourage kids to mix and match different features from real animals to come up with a pretend animal of their own.

SAY • It’s fun to imagine new creatures by mixing different parts of creatures that exist, like a horse with wings. We started with parts, but God did not need to use parts to create animals. God created the world out of nothing, and everything He created was good.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 2: Clay creations

Before the session, label index cards with the names of created things: *sun, moon, star, palm tree, bird, fish, camel*, and so forth. Prepare at least one index card per kid.

- modeling clay or play dough
- index cards
- marker

Mix up the cards and distribute them. Give each kid a lump of clay to shape the item on the card. Allow kids to work for several minutes. Then invite kids to take turns displaying their creations. Challenge the rest of the group to guess what the creation is.

If time allows, instruct kids to flatten the clay. Redistribute the cards and play again so kids each create something new.

SAY • Good job guessing those creations. Was it easy or hard to form those things out of clay? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Imagine creating everything out of nothing! Today we'll hear how God did just that.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1

STORY POINT: God created everything, and everything He created was good.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- tennis ball

Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. Show the key passage poster and invite the kids to read it together. Then toss a tennis ball to a kid. Invite him to say the first word of the key passage and then pass the ball to another kid. She will say the next word and pass the ball, and so forth. After the kids complete the verse, hide the key passage poster and play again. If a kid gets stuck, show the key passage poster and invite the kids to read the forgotten word together before continuing.

SAY • Our key passage from the Book of Colossians reminds us that God the Son created the world with God the Father. Jesus is God's Son, and He has always existed. The whole universe is held together by Jesus' power, and we exist to love God and give Him glory by enjoying His goodness.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute a Bible to each kid and help the kids find Genesis 1. Show them how to use the table of contents to find books, and then explain the difference between the big numbers, which show chapters, and the little numbers,

which show verses within a chapter.

SAY • The Bible is separated into two main parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells us about the time before Jesus came to earth as a human, and the New Testament tells us about Jesus and what happened during and after His life on earth.

Read Genesis 1:1-25. You may also choose to review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Then ask the following discussion questions:

1. God said that everything He created was good. What does that tell us about God? *Steer discussion toward the idea that God's creation being good shows that God is good.*
2. How do we know when something is good? *Guide discussion toward the idea that God decides what is good. Remind kids that **God is our Creator and King**, and He defines what is good.*
3. What is your favorite thing that God has created? How do you feel about God when you think about wonderful things He made? *Encourage each kid to name a different thing that God created. Steer discussion toward the idea that only God deserves our worship. Only He is powerful and good enough to be worthy of worship.*

SAY • Our story about God's creating the world teaches us a lot about God. **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.** God deserves our worship because He created us, and He is perfectly good. At the end of our story today, the world was still perfect as God created it to be. One day Jesus will return, and the world will be perfect again.

LOW PREP

- "Creation Wheel" printable, 1 per kid
- scissors
- crayons
- brass fasteners

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 2: Creation wheel

Print a copy of the "Creation Wheel" printable for each kid. Encourage the kids to draw a picture in the different sections of the bottom circle representing what God created on each day. They may want to write the main point on the top circle. Help the kids cut out the two circles and fasten them together using a brass fastener in the middle.

SAY • God created everything, and everything He created was good. We know that God loves us because of the beautiful world He created. Use this creation wheel to remember the good things God created on each day. You could even use this to teach your friends or neighbors about God. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the activity page and any other pages home with the kids so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.